



Happening's In the Office of Attorney General Steve Carter

January 31, 2008

Delaware County Prosecutor Mark McKinney, Attorney General Steve Carter, Launch Joint Vote Fraud Investigation into the '07 Muncie Mayoral Election

Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter and Delaware County Prosecutor Mark McKinney are joining forces to investigate alleged vote fraud during the November, 2007 Muncie Mayoral election. The attorney general's office is able to participate in the investigation and prosecution at the invitation of the local prosecutor who has the authority to file criminal charges.

Joint Vote Fraud Task Force Announces Four more Convictions

Four more people charged with vote fraud by the Lake County Joint Vote Fraud Task Force have pled guilty announced Attorney General Steve Carter and Lake County Prosecutor Bernard A. Carter. There are now 42 convictions against 53 defendants charged following an investigation by the Task Force into illegal voting activity during the '03 East Chicago Primary election. [Press Release](#)

Joseph Pedraza, St. John, IN. He has worked for the East Chicago Fire Department as a mechanic for more than 35 years.

Constance Simmons Pedraza, St. John, IN. She has worked for the East Chicago School Corporation as a paraprofessional.

Michael and Christopher Lopez, Dyer, IN.

"The attorney general's office is not a stranger to vote fraud and the complexity and sensitivity of such cases," Carter said. "The citizens of Delaware County deserve a fair and balanced inquiry into election fraud allegations which they will get as state and local investigating authorities join forces with the goal of assuring a thorough, competent and impartial investigation."

Delaware County Prosecutor Mark McKinney says involvement by the attorney general's office will be helpful.

"The experience that the Attorney General's office has in these types of cases, along with the enhanced credibility of a joint investigation, will be of great benefit as we move forward with the inquiry," McKinney stated. "We intend to fully and fairly investigate all of the allegations of wrongdoing that have been raised and if the law has been broken, those responsible will be held accountable." [Press Release](#)



Attorney General Steve Carter and Clarian Health Team Up to Launch Statewide Outreach to Help Victims of Domestic Violence

Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter, Clarian Health and the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence are joining forces to enhance outreach efforts to domestic violence victims. "Domestic violence is a leading cause of emergency room visits for women," Carter said. "First responders are often put in situations where they may identify signs of abuse and refer the victim to a social worker or other trained professional within the hospital. These professionals can share services offered by their hospital, local shelters, or other resources." [Press Release](#)

CONSUMER NEWS:

Attorney General Carter, former Owners of Memory Gardens Stress Need for Enhanced Cemetery Laws to Better Protect Cemetery Funds

Criminal and civil charges filed today against Memory Gardens and its owner Robert E. Nelms highlights the need for Indiana to enhance laws that protect and regulate the use of pre-need cemetery and perpetual care trust funds and perpetual care trust funds announced Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter and the Meyer family, former owners of Memory Gardens. Today the Attorney General's Office has filed an emergency order in Johnson Superior Court requesting a freeze on all accounts supervised or managed by Nelms and his companies and has asked that a receiver be immediately appointed so that misappropriated trust funds may be identified and recovered.

"The attorney general's office is currently working with legislators on language that would strengthen regulations and enhance penalties against cemetery owners who would pillage trust funds and also clarify and enhance the attorney general's role in pursuing wrongdoing," Carter said. "Current remedies are insufficient to ensure that the trust funds are being used for its intended purposes, and for recovering funds that are found to have been improperly used." [Press Release](#)



Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter Leads National Review of Computer Crimes : Denver meeting brings together Federal, State and Local Authorities



Attorney General Steve Carter will share Indiana's efforts against cybercrime during a meeting of the Executive Working Group of Prosecutorial Relations (EWG) this week in Denver, Colorado. Carter is a co-chair of the EWG and will lead the meeting of Federal, State and local law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities on the issue of computer and related crimes.

"My leadership of the EWG allows us to share Indiana's unique efforts to combat identity theft and cyber crimes with local prosecutors and U.S. Attorneys," Carter said. "Indiana will benefit from the insights from other states."